

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.

P:PHABIB

S/S - MR. WISNER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 172121

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MILI, PBOR, IS, LE

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: CEASEFIRE ARRANGEMENT

REF: BEIRUT 3536

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH EVRON OR
OTHER APPROPRIATE ISRAELI OFFICIAL TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING
POINTS WITH REGARD TO PLO-PROPOSED CEASEFIRE AND WITHDRAWAL
IN SOUTH LEBANON:

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-- SARKIS AND BOUTROS INFORMED PARKER THAT, IN A TURN-
ABOUT OF PALESTINIAN POLICY, THE PLO HAS ANNOUNCED A
UNILATERAL CEASEFIRE IN THE SOUTH AND HAS AGREED TO
IMPLEMENT THE CAIRO ACCORDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STRICT
LEBANESE INTERPRETATION OF THEM.

-- ACCORDING TO THE LEBANESE, THE PLO IS PREPARED TO PULL

BACK FORCES UNDER THEIR CONTROL FROM THE FRONTIER PROVIDED
THEY HAVE ASSURANCES THAT THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS OR THE
ISRAELIS WILL NOT MOVE IN WHEN THESE FORCES MOVE OUT.

-- WE, AS WELL AS THE LEBANESE LEADERS, ARE PUZZLED BY
THIS PLO PROPOSAL, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN A GOOD MANY
SIGNS OVER THE PAST WEEK OR SO THAT THE PLO WAS PUSHING

FOR A CEASEFIRE AND PULL-BACK, WHICH WOULD ALLOW A BUFFER
ZONE TO EMERGE. -

-- WE HAVE NOTED EVRON'S EARLIER COMMENTS (TEL AVIV 4817)
THAT ISRAEL WOULD FIND A CEASEFIRE ATTRACTIVE FROM A
SECURITY VIEWPOINT, BUT WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE OF THE
DETAILS BEFORE ACTIVELY ENCOURAGING THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS
TO COOPERATE WITH SUCH EFFORTS.

-- WE PLAN TO HAVE PARKER TELL THE LEBANESE LEADERS THAT,
BASED ON EARLIER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ISRAELIS, WE CAN
ASSURE THE LEBANESE THAT ISRAEL HAS NO INTENTION OF
INVADING OR SEIZING PARTS OF SOUTH LEBANON. PARKER WILL
ALSO ASK THE LEBANESE LEADERS TO DO THEIR BEST TO SECURE
DIRECTLY FROM THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS ASSURANCES OF
RESTRAINT AND GOOD BEHAVIOR IF A PALESTINIAN PULL-BACK
OCCURS.

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-- OUR VIEW IS THAT WE SHOULD GIVE THIS POTENTIALLY
HELPFUL DEVELOPMENT EVERY CHANCE TO SUCCEED. WE WILL BE
SEEKING DETAILS ON THE PROPOSALS AND THE NEGOTIATIONS AND
INTEND TO RELAY THEM TO THE ISRAELIS. IN THE MEANTIME,
THE ISRAELIS MIGHT CONSIDER DOING WHAT THEY COULD TO
KEEP THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS FROM TRYING TO EXPLOIT THE
SITUATION BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE RUN THEIR COURSE.

-- WE WILL BE MAKING SIMILAR POINTS HERE THROUGH THE
ISRAELI EMBASSY TO THE BEGIN PARTY. VANCE

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